

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07456 081200Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 NSCE-00 DRC-01

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O 080906Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3064

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7456

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR QUOTA FOR THAILAND

REF: A) STATE 094008; B) STATE 092672; C) BANGKOK 3249

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT THAT I KNOW HAS GONE INTO OBTAINING LARGER SUGAR QUOTA FOR THAILAND. INCREASE TO 28,581 TONS (INCLUDING TEMPORARY ALLOCATION) CERTAINLY GRATIFYING BUT STILL LEAVES THAILAND AT BOTTOM OF CATEGORY (A) LIST (REFTEL B) (BEHIND SWAZILAND, FOR EXAMPLE), DESPITE THE SPECIAL SET OF MILITARY OBJECTIVES AND POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES WE HAVE HERE AND THAT I HAVE DESCRIBED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES (REFTEL C) AS WELL AS ORALLY DURING YOUR RECENT VISIT TO THAILAND.

2. WITH FURTHER MEETING OF HAC NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 8, STRONGLY URGE THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO FURTHER INTERCESSION WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO PERSUADE THEM OF MERITS OF THAI CLAIM FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS ANNUAL QUOTA. IN ADDITION TO FACT THAT RTG OFFICIALS HAVE RAISED THIS REQUEST FOR QUOTA INCREASE DIRECTLY WITH ME, AS THEY DID WITH YOU AND DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, IT WAS ON BASIS OF OUR ADVICE THAT RTG EMPLOYED A LOBBYIST IN WASHINGTON DESPITE OBVIOUS DISLIKE OVER THIS PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN WHAT THEY REGARD AS ECONOMICALLY WELL JUSTIFIED
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REQUEST. MOREOVER, AS YOU FULLY AWARE, ONE OF PERSISTING

ARGUMENTS AGAINST US BASE PRESENCE IS THAT IT PROMOTES US INTERESTS BUT NOT NECESSARILY THAILAND'S. IN MY VIEW, RETENTION OF THAILAND AT BOTTOM OF CATEGORY (A) LIST SIMPLY STRENGTHENS OFT REPEATED CRITICISM HERE THAT WE AGGRESSIVELY PROTECT OUR OWN MILITARY INTERESTS IN THAILAND BUT ARE MUCH LESS RESPONSIVE TO THAI REQUESTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN ECONOMIC AREA TO WHICH RTG NOW GIVING INCREASED ATTENTION.

3. WILL GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES YOU MIGHT FIND POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IF THESE SHOULD BE CRUCIAL BETWEEN NOW AND TIME MY ARRIVAL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF SUGAR AND OTHER MATTERS BEGINNING MAY 16.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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